

## **CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Monday, October 13, 2014**

**The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C**

**Members present:** Ira Berkowitz, Michelle Harris, Darryl Higuchi, Jane Klammer, David LaGesse, Jeanne Most, Becky Patel and Eric Schneider

**Absent:** Cynthia Garnholz, Mark Stapleton and Melanie Tamsky

*Also Present:* Patty DeForrest, Dan Krewson, Toni Siering and Denise Ucinski

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the September 8 meeting were approved as submitted.

### **Addresses from the Audience:**

There were no addresses from the audience.

### **Dog Park Operations**

Anderson Dog Park policy and procedure information was provided to the Commission. Ms. DeForrest notified the Commission that one dog has been banned from the park for being too aggressive. A meeting with dog park members will be held to discuss proper usage of the small dog and large dog areas.

Primary topics discussed were: the policy on maximum number of dogs and residency of members. A guideline for the number of dogs was set early in the planning process and was based on having a one acre dog park in Clayton Shaw Park. Now that the city has a 1.8 acre dog park, limiting the amount of memberships to two hundred seems small.

Ms. Siering referenced the Dog Park Quick reference guide which showed a comparison of the Clayton Dog Park to other dog parks in the St. Louis area. Many comments she has received from members indicate that there are not enough dogs for their dogs to socialize. Ms. Siering recommended that the number of dogs should be increased to three hundred. Dog Park member, Ms. Fisher reported that the prime usage at the park is on Saturday and Sunday in the morning and afternoon as well as week days from 4:00 pm-6:30 pm. The most dogs in the park at one time is about thirty.

Since the dog park has been open for a year now is the time to evaluate operations. Ms. DeForrest suggested opening to non-residents and charging them a higher membership fee. After a brief discussion of operations and review of the dog park quick reference guide, Ms. Klammer made a motion to increase the number of dogs to three hundred and open the dog park to corporate and non-residents. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion and all were in favor.

### **Shaw Park Master Plan Overlay**

Ms. DeForrest read the Shaw Park Master Plan Overlay section of November 2013 minutes in order to recap past discussions. Last fall, the priority projects were approved by the Commission as well as the BOA. The following revisions were recommended by the Parks & Recreation Commission: reorder projects A, B & C, stress Clayton School District ownership of property related to the link portion of the plan, additional projects to be listed as potential, eliminate teen zone, talk about general concepts like landscaping and stormwater improvements. The changes were incorporated by SWT, and then the Shaw Park Master Plan Overlay was set aside for consideration later due to the election. Ms. DeForrest reviewed the three priority projects with the Commission. Project A: North Entry at Brentwood and Forsyth. There is a donor interested in funding the north hill project. A discussion has to take place to see if this donor is willing to cover the endowment for maintenance of \$125,000 per year. Currently the north hill project is in the conceptual phase; it will need to be vetted and a final plan with construction documents will be developed if the donor commits to fully fund the project and the ongoing maintenance.

Project B: Century Garden Dining Entrance. This project is tied directly to the multipurpose facility; therefore it would be best to complete projects B & C together.

Project C: Multipurpose Facility. This project was one of the bond issues on the ballot in April that did not pass. Since that time a small committee was formed to develop potential plans for the best way to move forward with the facility. Ms. Harris said charts have been developed for the ice rink showing different options, costs associated with each option and where to get the necessary funding. These charts will be reviewed at the November meeting and presented to the BOA in mid-November. This report includes a recommendation to include several questions about the facility on the community survey next fall. Ms. DeForrest stated the multipurpose facility project will not move forward quickly because there is no funding.

The Commission agreed to vote on the Shaw Park Master Plan Overlay at next month's meeting.

**Director's Report:**

**Awards** - The Shaw Park Aquatic Center received the Best Outdoor Aquatic Center award from the River Front Times. The Shaw Park Tennis Center received the Best Tennis Courts in St. Louis award from the USTA, and USTA also nominated the Tennis Center for a state award.

Staff is prepping the ice rink. Interior work is underway at the Hanley House. Overall this year the department will be focusing on maintenance of existing infrastructure.

**Programs** – This year the youth soccer and volleyball leagues reached record high numbers. Unfortunately rain has been an issue for soccer. Fitness programs are going strong and have a good program base. Aquatic programming slows down a little during this time of the year but programs are still going well.

**Events** – The final event of the year is Party in the Patch which will be held on Friday, October 17 in Shaw Park. Esley Hamilton, St. Louis County Historian, will be speaking on the History of St. Louis County Parks on October 22 at 7:00 pm at The Center of Clayton.

**Old Business / New Business:**

There was no old or new business to report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski